

CINEMAS

ABC 1 & 2, Shaftesbury Ave. W1 358 8861.
 Sep. 1st. All Stars (A). Sun. & Wk. 2.00.
 1st. All Stars (A). Sun. & Wk. 2.00.
 2nd. All Stars (A). Sun. & Wk. 2.00.
CLASSIC POLY, Oxford Circus (Upper Regent St). W1 358 8861.
 Sep. 1st. All Stars (A). Sun. & Wk. 2.00.
 2nd. All Stars (A). Sun. & Wk. 2.00.
CURZON, Curzon St. W1 358 8861.
 Sep. 1st. All Stars (A). Sun. & Wk. 2.00.
 2nd. All Stars (A). Sun. & Wk. 2.00.
EMPIRE, Leicester Square. W1 358 8861.
 Sep. 1st. All Stars (A). Sun. & Wk. 2.00.
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FOUR STAR, Leicester Square. W1 358 8861.
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GALE, Leicester Square. W1 358 8861.
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ROYAL, Leicester Square. W1 358 8861.
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THEATRE, Leicester Square. W1 358 8861.
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WINDMILL, Leicester Square. W1 358 8861.
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SUNDAY EXPRESS

Peril in the West

Is there a danger that America, in her eagerness to secure an arms agreement with Russia, is sacrificing the safety of Britain and Europe?

The respected voice of Mr Harold Macmillan is raised in warning. His solemn words are surely disturbing.

There is a weak man in the White House. Under Mr Carter, U.S. policy has been a mixture of vacillation and retreat.

The President dithered over the neutron bomb. He tamely acquiesced in the overthrow of Afghanistan, watched the Marxist threat grow in the Horn of Africa and did nothing.

Now he abandons the Shah of Persia, America's ally for more than 30 years, as casually as he would shell a Georgian peasant.

Yet it is to this same Jimmy Carter that the Socialists have entrusted Britain's security.

They have slashed defence spending by £10 billion so that they would have more money to bribe the unions. They have stripped our Army so that it would be haphazardly pressed to meet an amphibious attack on the Isle of Rhé.

Mr Carter decides Britain is expendable, who will defend her against the Russian menace?

From his perch high on the rubbish tip that is spreading over the country, perhaps Mr Callaghan could take time out to tell us.

Bully

WITH a total contempt for the democratic process, Communist shop-stewards' convener Derek Robinson leads 18,000 workers out on strike at the Leyland Longbridge plant.

It evidently did not worry Mr Robinson that the stoppage would cost £2,500,000 a day in lost output. He clearly could not care less that other Leyland plants were going through an elaborate voting process to decide whether or not to strike.

No amount of reason, no amount of common-sense, was going to stop him jumping the gun. And the result? The rest of Leyland have voted by more than 2-1 for industrial peace. The Leyland management meanwhile has made it clear that there is still a chance that employees will get the productivity payments which lay at the heart of the row.

Mr Robinson is left looking isolated and rather stupid.

Is it too much to hope that the workers at Longbridge will accept the democratic verdict and get the assembly lines moving again? And that while they are doing it they will take the time to boot out the incompetent bully who has led them so seriously astray?

Brothers?

IF the B.E.C. believes that James Earl Jones is the best man to play Othello, what right has the actors' union, Equity, to issue a veto?

It does not matter if Mr Jones is an American Negro. It would not matter if he were a Bantu tribesman.

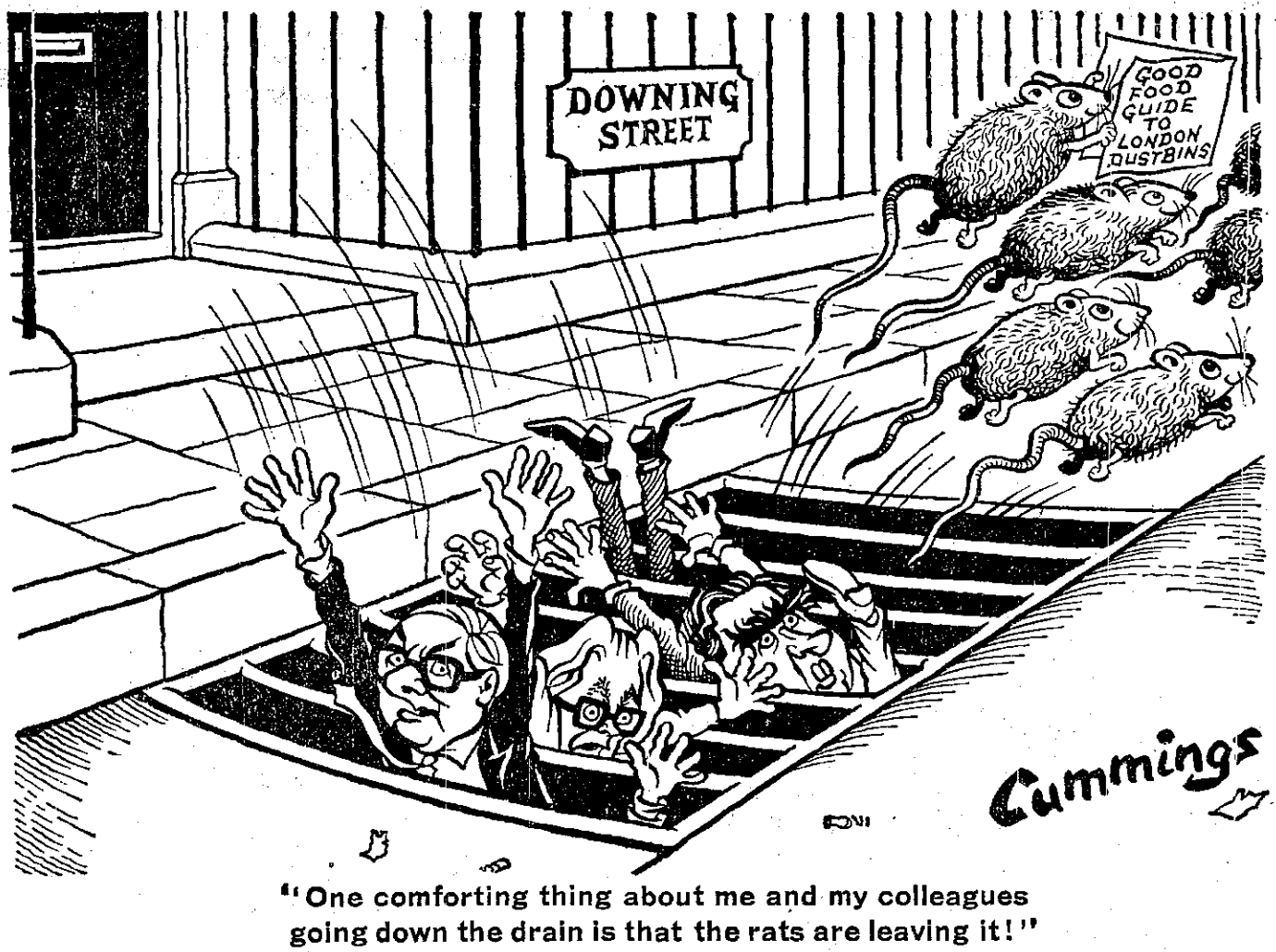
Nor is it relevant that the American Equity is equally petty in protecting its own.

Equity, which, like all trades unions, is supposed to be based on brotherhood, should be ashamed of itself.

Perhaps it would be happy with the part of the Moor going to Mr Ken Dodd, British to his front teeth?

Parting thought

A saint is one who makes goodness attractive. Anon.



WAGE increases were given without improvements in productivity. Failing to put its house in order, the country built up debts.

The result of this was the paralysis of trade, the exhausting of our credit; in short, the growing threat of financial bankruptcy and economic collapse.

Long-term problems such as housing, schools, hospitals and communicating delays were allowed to accumulate which seriously compromised the future.

These words give an apt description of Britain in 1979.

They are the words that General de Gaulle used to describe the France that he inherited in 1958. A France as sick as Britain is today. A France to whom he brought revival.

De Gaulle's triumph was to replace weak government with strong government and to regenerate a declining and sick economy. Strikes, inflation and decaying due to inflationary wage increases, with an economy that became the strongest European economy of the 1960s.

He described his attitude to the economy in simple words when he said: "I felt it was simply a matter of common sense. The country could only thrive internally and carry weight abroad if its activity was in tune with the age."

Achieved

"In an industrial era it must be industrial. In a competitive era it must be competitive. Science and technology it must cultivate."

But in order to produce a great deal, and to do so on terms which would facilitate trade, it was necessary to continue invention what is made in its factories and harness it to the needs of the world. De Gaulle achieved that transformation. Britain desperately needs that transformation now.

De Gaulle was only able to

senior Labour politician who can be relied upon to toe their line.

Like most of his colleagues, Mr Benn is certain that nothing can save Labour at the next election. Within a matter of months Mrs Thatcher will be installed in Downing Street and he will be embarked on a programme to curb excessive union power.

What a to-do there will be in the T.U.C. then! How anxious Moss and Len and Joe will be for the Labour Party to charge into the attack! And what pressure there will be on Labour M.P.s to pick as their new leader a chap who has shown that his heart is in the right place.

In the shock and disillusion of a Labour debacle, with most of his rivals discredited over their support for the 5 per cent pay policy and with the unions flocking to his banner, it could be Mr Benn's big chance.

Left at risk

Or could it? With a chill foreboding he cannot help observing that most Labour seats at risk are held by Left-wingers. And that most of those likely to survive are firm moderates.

Such folk will not take kindly to the way the unions have wrecked their party. Nor will they be enthusiastic over union favourites in the leadership contest.

Mr Benn may not realise it yet. But it could be that the N.U.P.E. gesture on his

by the Rt Hon
PETER WALKER
 Tory MP for Worcester

revive France because the ordinary people had had enough of strikes, of agitation and of meaningless wage increases.

The people of France demanded common sense. When, after weeks of student marches, Left-wing demonstrations and industrial unrest, the achievements of de Gaulle were threatened in 1968, the ordinary people of Paris stood up to be counted.

It is they who took to the streets in their thousands demanding an end to the nonsense and a retention of sanity.

When he came to introduce the radical policies needed to revive France, President de Gaulle always went to the people. For 10 years in referendum after referendum he won the people's support.

Britain is just ending a decade of disaster. It has been the decade in which the trade union movement came under a new type of leadership.

The sensible leadership of

the Arthur Deakins, the Bill Carrons and the Ernie Bevins came to an end when just over 10 years ago Hugh Scanlon took over the Engineering Union, Jack Jones became leader of the Transport and General Workers' Union, and Clive Jenkins started activating to militancy the white collar workers.

These men, and men like them, decided that they would abandon the wage moderation of the past and go for the high wage economy. Alas, they cared only for the high wages and had no interest in the higher productivity.

Just look how they have failed. It is true that over the past 10 years they have demanded and obtained wage increases three times greater than in the previous 10 years.

Sanity

But because the only effect of these increases has been to increase prices, taxes and rates, the people have employed improvements in their standards of living in no way comparable to the years in which the union leaders had the sanity to recognise that for wage increases to be meaningful they must be linked with improved productivity.

Their actions, our current trade union leaders have contributed to the creation of 12 million unemployed and have piled up a public sector waste bill of such dimensions that we now have to find an average £30 per week in taxes

and rates from every family in the country to meet the wage bill of central and local government.

What sort of a country have our present generation of trade union leaders created?

The events of the past few weeks have shown the world that the benefits of North Sea oil are being dissipated. Our competitors are full of gloom as our industries are handicapped by strikes and their competitiveness is ruined by soaring wage deals.

Inhuman

They see a political leadership that constantly mutters: "There is no crisis." There is no crisis to this Government so long as they can borrow money to provide the electorate with enough tranquillisers to see them to Polling Day.

Britain today needs a return to sanity and common sense even more than France did in 1958. It is time the people stopped mumbling and grumbling and demonstrated as never before their determination that Britain should be governed, and governed well.

It was the French people, not de Gaulle, who demanded the end of the decline of the country should end and the revival begin.

It is therefore the British people now who must give a new authority to a new Government, that will bring an end to the suicidal, and often inhuman, tactics that are currently ruining our nation.

Already he has persuaded characters like Denis Healey, Robert Morley and Marilyn Rees to come along. Michael Parkinson has accepted a booking. And even the great television personality Sir Harold Wilson is putting in an appearance at one of Ray's rave-ups next month.

Mr Carter is in little danger of losing his seat next time. But should the unexpected happen, I'd say he could build a new career booking acts for the Palladium.

Chinese torture

A couple of weeks ago I told of the problems M.P.s have avoiding each other in distant lands, with 15 of them in Hong Kong one busy Monday. Keeping clear of constituency problems can be an even greater problem. Horncliffe M.P. Mr Peter Tapsell, one of the Hong Kong crew, extended his

CURRENT EVENTS

CAN you recall last September 7? It is a day that should live in the memory. For, as we can see now, it may well have saved Britain.

On that day Mr Callaghan made fools of his party and of his trade union bosses and ran away from an election.

He was then basking in undeserved popularity. The Socialists had a better than even chance of winning.

Had the Prime Minister not fumbled it, we could still be in the opening months of five years' hard labour.

But now, as the opinion polls testify, the people seem to have rumbled old Moscovitch.

Could the story be true that Sir Harold Wilson advised against an autumn election?

If so, it was perhaps his one service to the nation. MR BHUTTO may have committed murder. I do not know. If he is guilty, then he deserves punishment.

But no man deserves to be kept in filth and degradation for almost a year, under the permanent shadow of the noose.

There seems to be no mercy for anyone in Pakistan these days, with the new rulers introducing stoning for adultery and cutting off hands for theft.

In neighbouring India another ex-Premier, Mrs Gandhi, is running just ahead of the posse, accused of corruption and all kinds of crimes. Ironical, isn't it, that Britain was hurried out of the Indian sub-continent so that an ancient civilisation might flower. The flowers have all the perfume of a pig bin.

MRS ELSIE EVANS is dead. Her death was something of a relief. She was 80 years old. Virtually blind. Almost unable to walk or even move her neck.

What little life was left in the pathetic old lady was steadily ground out of her by the inhumanity that only large Government departments can show.

Mrs Evans lived alone in a council flat in Coventry. As the widow of an R.A.F. officer she received a pension. Although this was only a few pounds a week, it meant she could not claim Special Security.

When her pension was raised to just over £6, the income tax moved from £2.03, leaving her only £3.47. When she subsequently received an extra 53p

the tax man moved in again and grabbed 52p. For Mrs Evans there was just one penny.

Because she could not pay her electricity bill she had turned in desperation to an R.A.F. welfare officer. He found out that she was being taxed at the maximum level since she had not filled in her tax form—a form which she could not see.

The pensions and tax people knew all about Mrs Evans and her pitiful condition. Yet there was not one single man or woman with enough interest or compassion to try to help her.

Maybe they too find her death a relief.

CINEMAS are making a comeback because the film makers are again producing decent family entertainment.

Sadly, however, swasty farmyard epics are still around.

Suzanne Danielle has bowed out of one diverting piece after an argument about how much she should reveal.

"She agreed to do some of the love scenes in bed, as well as topless and rear shots, but being a serious actress will not go full frontal."

Old innocent that I am, I never realised until now that an actress needs talent to display her bottom.

WITH ITS usual passion for self-congratulation, the B.B.C. is beating the drum because it now has a round-the-clock radio programme.

But what is clever about providing an endless dose of music and patter? It does not take much skill to put a record on a turntable and potential disc jockeys can be found in any seedy coffee bar.

There is no reason why the B.B.C. should be playing pop music at all. That could be left to the commercial stations and the corporation could use the money it is at present wasting to produce programmes of at least some intelligence and interest.

TRANSLATION pioneer Dr. Christian Barnard has won my heart by his strictures against jogging.

I do not know what good the joggers are doing themselves. But I do know the effect on me. After seeing one tortured face, one pair of pinpoints pounding the highway, do not feel better until I have had a double gin and a long lie-down.

Bye bye. Ronald Sparsh



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